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REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

PCT Rule 13.2 requires that, in order to fulfill the requirement for unity of invention, there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

The applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-41 drawn to a fluid treatment apparatus and designated Group I by the Examiner, and Claims 42-61 drawn to a method of processing raw fluid and designated Group II, both involve the following corresponding special technical features that make a contribution over the prior art:

In Claim 1:

"Wherein the fluid treatment apparatus between the pumping apparatus and the separated fluids discharge is pressurized, by the pumping apparatus."

In Claim 2:

"Wherein the entire process up to the point of exit from the clarification chamber is conducted in a pressurized environment."

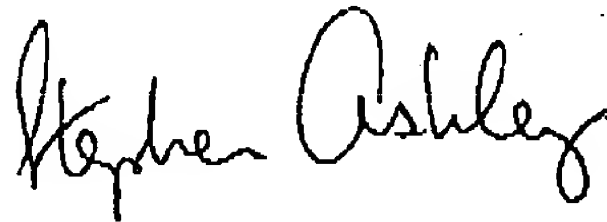
The cited technical feature, a clarification chamber, is simply one shared element in the combination claimed. Contrary to the Examiner's stated position, the PCT Rule 13.2 does not require that each shared technical feature define a contribution over the prior art,

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only that "one or more" shared technical feature does so. A group of inventions is considered linked to form a single general inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature. M.P.E.P. § 1893.03(d).

Therefore the Applicant respectfully submits that the Claims of Group I and Group II, as designated by the Examiner, do not disclose separate inventions and do satisfy the requirements of PCT Rule 13.2. The Applicant therefore requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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